

VMB-612

12
⑬

Report # 333

HC(13)

21

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

~~SECRET~~

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 612 (b) Based on or at Airfield #1, Iwo Jima (c) Report No. 333
 (d) Take off: Date 10 April 1945 Time (LZT) 101010Z (~~ZONE~~); Lat. 24°-16' Long 141°-16' E.
 (e) Mission Night low altitude rocket mission. Location of targets and firing of rockets by radar. (f) Time of Return 101553Z (~~ZONE~~)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
PBJ-1B	VMB 612	1	0	1	8 Rockets Model 6 AR	Mk126 Base, non delay
					2 Photo flash bombs Mk46	M 111A2
					2 Para-flares Mk6 Modific. 3	Set to go off 300 feet below aircraft.

III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION. ~~NONE~~

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). ~~NONE~~

(a) TYPE	(b) NO OBSERVED	(c) NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED, GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ if so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (MILES)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). ~~NONE~~

(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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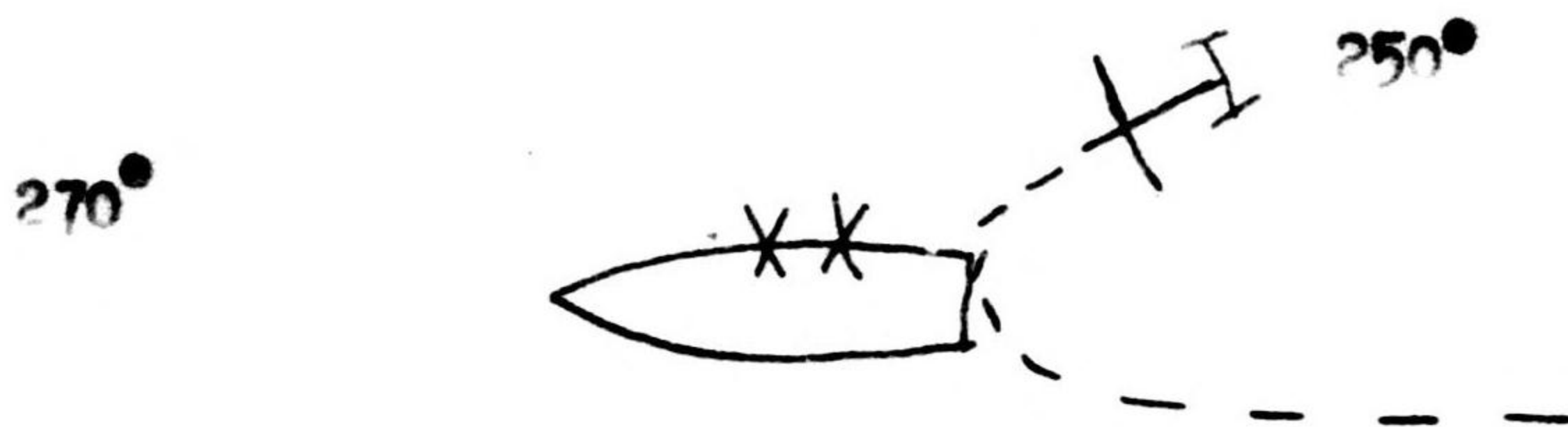
XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **1 Probable Fox Tare Baker** (b) Time Over Target(s) **101425 Z** ~~0800~~ **0807**
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **9/10 cu at 800 feet to 3000 feet**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Easy** (e) Visibility **5 miles**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **ApQ -5**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Rockets fired** ~~2~~ per Run **2** Spacing **0** Altitude of Bomb Release **300**
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed _____ Probably Destroyed _____ Damaged _____

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS ON Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Probable Fox Tare Baker	425 feet to 475	(j) 1 (k) VMB 612	2 Rockets	2	Slight
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

Crew observed two explosions as rockets struck stern of vessel. Ship stopped after attack.



(p) Were Photographs Taken? **Yes** Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.
No image

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

OWN AIRCRAFT

Disposition
Altitudes
Speeds
Approach Tactics
Use of Cover, Deception
Angles of Attack and
Their Effectiveness
Distance of Opening Fire
Defense Tactics and
Their Effectiveness

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Method of Locating, Distance
Disposition
Altitudes
Speeds
Approach Tactics
Use of Cover, Deception
Angles of Attack
Distance of Opening Fire
Defensive Tactics

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Own Weaknesses
Enemy Weaknesses
Offensive Tactics, Own
" " " Enemy
Defensive Tactics, Own
" " " Enemy
Flexible Gunnery, Own
Escort Tactics
Fighter Direction
Use of Radar
Night Fighting
Recognition, Aircraft

ATTACK

OWN TACTICS

Method of Locating Target
Approach to Target
Altitudes, Speeds
Approach
Dive
Pull-Out
Dive Angle
Strafing
Retirement
Defensive Tactics
Use of Jamming

DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships
Concealment
Searchlights
Night Fighter Tactics
Use of Jamming

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bombing Tactics
Torpedo Tactics
Effectiveness of
Bombs, Torpedoes
Selection of Targets
Fuzing
Strafing Tactics
Defensive Tactics
Use of Radar
Reconnaissance
Photography
Briefing

OPERATIONAL

Navigation
Homing
Rendezvous
Recognition, Ships
Communications
Flight Operations
Search and Tracking
Base Operations
Maintenance

PBJ was assigned and searched sector A. A thorough search was made and several radar indications of shipping were picked up. PBJ investigated the target indication strongest on radar scope, which proved to be a large ship visually identified as a probable Fox Fare Baker. Aircraft made an identification run across the ship, preceded out ten miles and set up gear for attack. Attack run was made on a true course of 250° at an indicated air speed of 150 knots and an altitude of 300 feet. Rockets were fired by radar from approximately 1340 yards. Location of ship when attacked was 33°-45'N, 137°-00'E.

Aircraft returned to target several minutes later and attempted to take pictures of damage, from an altitude of 600 feet. Anti-aircraft fire from 20MM and 40MM was encountered on this run.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary).

ARMAMENT

- Guns, Gunsights
- Turrets
- Ammunition
- Bombs, Torpedoes
- Bomb Sights
- Bomb Releases

COMMUNICATIONS

- Radio, Radar
- Homing Devices
- Visual Signals
- Codes, Ciphers

RECOGNITION

- IFF
- Signals
- Battle Lights
- Procedures

PROTECTION

- Armor; Points and Angles of Fire Needing Further Protection
- Leak Proofing

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

- Parachutes
- Life Belts, Life Rafts
- Safety Belts
- Emergency Kits
- Rations, First Aid

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Compasses
- Driftsights
- Octants
- Automatic Pilots
- Charts
- Field Lighting

INSTRUMENTS

- Flight
- Power Plant

OXYGEN SYSTEM

CAMOUFLAGE AND DECEPTION DEVICES

STRUCTURE

- Airframe
- Control Surfaces
- Control System
- Dive Flaps
- Landing Gear
- Heating System
- Flight Characteristics At Various Loadings

POWER PLANT

- Engines
- Engine Accessories
- Propellers
- Lubricating System
- Starters
- Exhaust Dampers

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

- Auxiliary Plant
- Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

- Plane Servicing Equipment
- Personnel Facilities

~~No comments.~~

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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LAWRENCE F. FOX.

MAJOR, USMC

10 April 1945

ASSISTANT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

COMMANDING OFFICER